

**Recap of May 13, 2004, Meeting  
Information Service Policy Committee  
1:00pm Room 106 County/City Building**

**Attendees:**

*Dave Kroeker, Jon Camp, Don Herz, Ken Kuszak, Randy Ober, and Doug Thomas*

**Administrative:**

**I.S. Remodeling;**

*They are working on putting in ceiling tiles now. They did get some damaged lights in that will have parts replaced. Doug talked to Rob, (General Contractor), and he said we thought they are a couple of weeks ahead of schedule. They need to get the floor installed and basically when the tile is done, the floor is all that is left. This is Phase II, Phase I is completed. Systems Development people are moved back in and we currently have the rest of the staff planted in different parts of the building. If all goes well, construction could be completed the first part of June instead of the middle of June.*

**Ron's position;**

*Earlier this week, we forwarded to Personnel for their consideration, the interview questions for filling this position.*

**InterLinc Cross Promotion Activities;**

*We worked with StarTran and they are not going to charge us for putting InterLinc placards on the buses. We are ordering enough materials to do five buses with two signs inside and one on the side. The cost will be about \$2,500 for all of the materials.*

**Networking:**

**Fiber Projects/General;**

*Curt Weber did talk with Alltel earlier this week and they thought they would have Mental Health and Trabert up in about three weeks and ready to be testing.*

**Health Department Fiber;**

*ABC Electric has started working on this project but it could take four to six weeks before they are on fiber. Based on the contracts they had 90 days from the time they got fiber to get it done. In the interim ABC has been completing the make ready so now that the fiber is in it should go pretty well.*

**I.S./K Street Fiber Connection;**

*Dave Bernt from Public Works stopped by and said he was meeting this week with the annual award winner for doing core drilling for the City. He will have them work on our project initially so in the next two months or so the bore between K Street and I.S. will be done which will give us a full redundant loop downtown. This will give us a self healing ring which is becoming more important with the increase in wireless that we are doing.*

**Wireless 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Hall of Justice;**

*This week Ben is completing the wireless on fourth floor for the Sheriff's Department. We originally got a grant from 3Com in which we were able to do most of the building, now we are going in and finishing the rest of the building as necessary. The Sheriff use this quite a bit with their Palms. They look up people who have outstanding warrants when they recognize them on the way to court and then they arrest them on the previous warrants.*

**Health/Parks/Various Public Works Sites-Wireless;**

*We are installing a 54meg radio at the Health Department that will act as a hub and it will also be*

*redundant for them once they get fiber. They will still be a spoke, not a loop, it does allow us to use them as a hub and go out and hit Parks and there are some Public Works sites that we also want to hit with this. We only have to pay \$7,000 to participate in this and it will get us to the Parks Department. Public Works covered about \$30,000 on the project. We are also considering some wireless from the Health Department to Mental Health's new location at the blood bank building.*

### **ISP RFP;**

*We have gotten the RFP's back for our Internet Service Provider, Alltel and Time Warner were way above all other proposals and they were very close in their bids. We recommended Time Warner to Vince and he is mulling this over because they were very close. One of the things that is nice about the Time Warner solution is they would make a major drop of their fiber optic system into the Hall of Justice and so any of our VPN activity would never leave town, everything would stay within our/their local networks. We can get one meg transfer speeds from Time Warner for \$75 and Alltel's circuits are slower and cost more. For the 4 meg transfer rate with Time Warner the cost is \$145 per month and for a T1 line through Alltel, which is rated at 1.54 meg, (one third of the speed), the costs range from \$600-\$700 per month. With Time Warner we would get three times faster speed for much cheaper. On a three-year agreement there is about a \$12 per month difference between them but on a 5-year agreement Time Warner is about \$250 a month cheaper. Alltel is supposed to be getting us some updated frame relay charges and some other services that they are starting to offer. Kind of a "heavy DSL" service they are starting to offer and we wanted to wait and look at this proposal before we made the ISP decision. We expect to make a recommendation to Purchasing next week sometime.*

### **Proxy Server (Attachments);**

*We are testing a proxy server that allows us to scan http web sites for viruses. We have not had a big problem with this spreading throughout the network yet. This scans files that you download from websites. The pop ups are hurting us right now. We are still trying to figure out an attachment solution that is not so cumbersome.*

## **Information Center:**

### **Trojans;**

*We have been getting a number of Trojan viruses on computers lately. In the last month Ken has had one person working full-time cleaning pc's up because of Trojan viruses. Trojans are getting in through pop up screens and when you click on them it will download the Trojan viruses onto the computer.*

*We are currently running Spybot on all of the new pc's which will find and remove many of these viruses. The Trojan viruses are generally a problem on XP's and 2000 machines. They are not destructive but they attempt a remote review/controlling, in other words they track your activity and capture your key strokes. So the next time you get on the internet people can see where you are going and what you are typing in. The idea of the Trojan is you do not know it is there. Some of people are clever enough they may be writing something in their code that will notify them when you are on the Internet and where you are going. Norton anti-virus will not detect these.*

*You can download Spybot. When you do a search on the internet you need to make sure that what you download is Spybot because there are other people out there who will try and direct you to a different site. Ken is going to email Jon the link to make sure he gets the right program. We usually discover people are infected with a Trojan when they complain about getting pop ups all the time, even when they are not on the Internet they get pop ups. We try to clean it up once and if they continue to happen, we usually have to wipe out the hard drive and start over because these viruses hide themselves so well it is hard to find them.*

## **Application Development:**

### **RBase to Access conversions;**

*We have started working on some RBase to Access conversions. Public Works has asked us to put theirs on hold and the at the County Engineer, Jim and his group on going to do their own conversion. Basically, RBase is a dead product, it continues to run but at some point there will be conflicts with an operating system and it will not run. This is pretty much the end of the conversions. At one time we probably had several hundred programs that were written in RBase.*

### **TicketTrac Replacement;**

*We ran into a little bit of a snafu in converting the data over to a new system. We uncovered something they were not aware of. The system is name driven and that is the only hook that it had in terms of looking at comments relating to a particular ticket. So if you looked up John Smith's ticket (for comments), you get the comments from every John Smith ticket still in the system. We will work through this but it was just and unforeseen problem. We are still not getting any positive feed back from Radix on the hardware so we have started working with Todd Beam and we are probably going to go with a tough book tablet type of device that will not be as expensive as mobile data terminals they have in the cruisers. However, it can handle weather extremes, it can be portable, or you can dock, so it has many capabilities.*

### **Health Clinic System;**

*The vendor, CMHC, has still not signed off on some of the language the Health Department wants in the contract so we continue to work with them without a revised contract. Some modules appear that they might be close to production.*

### **Prime/EMS Pro;**

*We continue to make good progress here. We actually had a Fire Captain come in and work with the staff. We gave him a dry run through the system and he came up with some good suggestions. We are going to modify the system to include these and then bring in some more firefighters/paramedics to take a look at it and we'll see what other changes they would recommend. We are getting real close on this as well and Doug thinks Jim is looking at a June implementation on this system. The PRIME is one that we built that is across all of their systems, this system includes training, scheduling, firefighting and some EMS components as well. EMS Pro is really the main driving force on the medical side and it is a third party product. There are interfaces between the two and data sharing capabilities but the PRIME is more all encompassing. EMS Pro is what they are using to collect data in the field.*

### **Permits Plus;**

*We continue to meet on streamlining the permits process. We are having monthly meetings that include the Health Department, Planning, Public Works, Building and Safety and LES, we continue to move forward with ideas on how we can streamline this process. One of the things that Doug wants to talk to them about is what they see as I.S.'s role, and how beneficial they think we can be to the project. Right now they are talking about us doing some of the development but the four agencies are going to be in a much better position to develop a screen for the Clerk's office or for some other small agency. It is not really very effective for us to try and to this because we may only touch it every few months where as they are in it every day. Doug may approach it that on a rotating basis the experts for each of these departments actually help develop some of the other agencies. It is a little different model in that Building and Safety maintained the application and they have two or three people who know the system very well. Building and Safety in combination with Cindy Dittman from Planning, who has done a lot of work with the system, are probably in a better position to assist some of the other agencies. We will still take care of the back end, the database*

*and hardware stuff, it is just the application itself they know more about and are in a better position to help other agencies. They talked about us providing the training too and Doug hesitates to say this is the best solution because we are not as familiar with the product as they are. Doug is going to discuss this with Kent Morgan and Wilma to see how they feel about it.*

### **Tech Support:**

#### **233 Building Modifications Bid;**

*The electrical modifications needed are in relation to the diesel generator that is sitting in the basement. The upgrades are needed so that we can use this to power our machine room if needed. We have had an electrical engineer take a look at this and they have recommended that we do a little upgrading to the actual generator itself in terms of a new governor on the motor to help it idle better and then two pieces for handling the actual electricity coming out of it. The cost is going to be about \$7,500 for these upgrades. The second part of the project is to get the electricity from the generator up to our machine room. We just received the specs back on this yesterday and Doug is going to talk to Vince about them. This appears to be a two to three week project and Randy is not sure on the exact cost but he thinks it will be about a \$20,000 upgrade. It will cost about \$27,000 to make the diesel generator usable for us. The way it will work is if electricity is cut to our building, the UPS will keep the machine room running and at the time when electricity goes out, the generator will fire up and stabilize within 60 seconds, then it will start producing a good steady run of electricity and then electric switches will switch it into our panel all electronically. So if something happens on a weekend when no one is here things will continue to go. When electricity is returned to the building the machine will shut down and we will switch back to building electricity. The UPS machine is always setting in the middle to make sure the transition back and forth is handled with a smooth current of electricity. The UPS electricity should last about 30 minutes. This generator will just keep things running in our building it has no impact on any other County/City buildings. We may end up doing something with the fuel system because currently you refill the tanks by carrying five gallon buckets down to the basement. We do not have any type of automatic notification when the electricity is cut. We will find out more information about how much fuel the generator will take and whether the fuel could get old sitting there. It should be able to hold enough fuel for at least three days. We will probably end up starting this project this summer.*

#### **Utilizations;**

*Utilizations figures are good. The SYSM mail system should be shut down in the next couple of weeks. The Election Commission asked us to hold off until after last Tuesday's election. They still had three people using it and they wanted to wait until after the election. Randy will call them soon to get these three people moved over to another facility. This will save us just over \$7,000 a year. Many of the messages have been routed through SYSM to users Notes or Netinfo accounts.*

#### **Hardware for PeopleSoft Project;**

*Randy told Dave that he is going to recommend that we go with MSI for the hardware. Their second option on the bid was very good and was actual low bid. We ended up only having two bidders, the third guy walked in two minutes after twelve and Vince did not accept the bid. The bids were at about \$70,000 for the AS/400 equipment. To run the PC side, Ken's initial list was \$23,000 and it included a \$6,000 server but if this is ran on the AS/400 Dave will not have to spend the money for this server. It should be a two-week delivery. We waited for IBM to announce their new AS/400 line hoping this would save us some money on the equipment we wanted to purchase, but after a preliminary look at the prices it was not going to save the County any funds.*

*Marce from People Soft is not around anymore. Jim sent him a question and did not hear back from him and then Mark Kuda sent Jim a message saying that Marce is no longer with People Soft.*

#### **Lotus Notes Development;**

*I.S. is not currently doing much Notes development. Some forms and Public Works is interested in doing some development. Don talked with the Keith Larson, (a Notes Developer for the State), and he may be interested in talking with the City about some possible development. In particular, he mentioned expense reimbursement. Deb is taking over most of the Lotus Notes Administration and development. We do have two developer licenses that we have kept current.*

**Next Meeting;**

*June 10, 2004*